

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Atchafalaya* - Freeport, TX

Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 10 / 09 / 95 Loads: 226-260

Area(s) Worked: Stations 130+00-180+00

Weather Conditions: Clear, Winds calm to variable 10 knots, Seas 1-3

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 26-27°C Below Mid-Depth 26-27°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: Intact and working fine. New screening added to the port overboard discharge pipe. This screening is 4"x4".

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

On load 254 a adult Loggerhead was stuck to the draghead and intestines were sampled in the lander. The draghead was brought on deck and the turtle was pried out. The turtle was covered with clay. The carapace was severely crushed and a small section from the posterior part of the carapace was missing. The carapace was covered with over 100 barnacles. The turtle was photographed and measured. The turtle will be disposed of at the disposal site tomorrow. The turtle will be weighted down so not to be dredged up again or wash up on the beach. Due to sampling the intestines in the lander it is assumed that the turtle was not taken at the end of the digging cycle. The lander usually fills up with clay and the material overflows over the side. Raphael the dragtender on duty has done a good job at keeping the drags on the bottom while pumping. Material in this area is mud and clay.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tt</u>	<u> </u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Bottlenose Dolphins, sighted all</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>day in the cut</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>area.</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Eric Westerman, Peter Westerman

Dredge *Atchafalaya* - Freeport, TX
Gulf Coast Trailing Co./USACE, Galveston District

Dates: 10 / 08 / 95 - 10 / 14 / 95 Loads: 226-300

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 25-26-27⁰C Below Mid-Depth 25-26-27⁰C

Area(s) Worked: Stations 130+00-155+00-180+00

Comments: On the 9th a loggerhead sea turtle was sampled in the in the lander and draghead. The turtle was photographed and measured. On the 10th the turtle was weighted down and disposed of at the disposal site. The material in the area that the turtle was sampled in is mud and clay. The plastron had a one cm of clay covering on it. Several pieces of the intestines were sampled in the lander screen. This indicates that the turtle was not taken at the end of the load. Due to the screen clogging up with clay the intestines probably would not have been sampled were they were found. The pieces were sampled near the bottom of the screen. The dragtender on duty at the time has done a good job at keeping the drags on the bottom while pumping.

The dredge went into port this week three times. Twice due to weather and once for repairs. The material digging this week has been mud and clay. Samples continue to be mostly clay.

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt		8	Bottlenose Dolphins

Eric Westerman, Peter Westerman

Observers On Duty: